



PRAISE. LISTEN. LOVE. SERVE.

# Good News

September 2017

## Month At-A-Glance

September 4  
◇ Labor Day

September 9  
◇ Blessing of the  
Animals

September 10  
◇ Visitor's Brunch

September 24  
◇ La Fiesta in the Park

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## *Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

When Joe B asked me to write the cover of this month's newsletter, my first thought was "OH NO!" As someone once said, "Writing about music is like dancing about architecture." It is difficult to put into words musical thoughts and plans, but I will attempt to do my best.

Over the past couple months, I have thoroughly enjoyed the transition from Ministry Associate to Minister of Worship and Arts. For those of you who do not already know, I began my classical training in voice and trumpet long before I ever picked up a guitar. I am so excited to now be among the few lucky millennials whose job actually pertains to their education. I have already been so thrilled to craft both worship services and to bring the intentionality that I have put into planning the First Cup service into both services. Now that I am getting back into working with traditional and classical music, I am realizing how much I have missed planning, rehearsing, and performing it.

As I begin my new position, I am also delighted to introduce two new members to our music staff. First is Nick Johns-Cooper, our new organist. Nick is a native of Conyers, Georgia and currently lives in Decatur. He has his Bachelor of Music in Piano and Organ, studying with Dr. Geoffrey Haydon and Sarah Martin. He has served in various Atlanta area churches, most recently, Rock Spring Presbyterian. He has twice served as a board member of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Nick is also a member of a local rock band called Brother Hawk, which means he is able to bring plenty of his talents to First Cup as well.

Our other new addition is Kayla White, our alto section leader. Kayla holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Business and a BA in Music from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, as well as a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Georgia State. Kayla has performed with the Sarasota Opera, the Capitol City Opera, the Institute of Bel Canto Studies and the American Institute of Musical Studies.

Finally, I will take this opportunity to extend again the invitation to everyone who wants to be involved in music at MVPC. Perhaps you would like to join the choir, but are afraid because you can't read music. Don't worry; we would love for you to sing with us and can accommodate those who do not read music. Perhaps you would like to play guitar, keys, bass, or drums at First Cup, but don't even know how to hold the instrument correctly. Fret not; I give free music lessons to members on a first come, first served basis. Perhaps you are completely tone deaf and find yourself unable to clap in time with others, but still want to be involved. Never fear; there are plenty of opportunities, and plenty of need, for people to learn how to run the sound system, power point, and web-streaming.

When I enter the sanctuary of a church, I like to think of all the sound waves traveling above me from earlier music sung and performed. We add our music into the reverberations from the worship of our past. I hope you will consider being a part of music at MVPC and pray for those of us who feel called to serve the church through song.

Praise, Listen, Love, Serve

~ TJ



## LISTEN

*“As disciples of Jesus Christ, we listen to scripture, tradition, one another, and the world in order to understand God’s will for us as individuals and as a community”*

## Children’s Ministry

Let’s give **Sunday School** a Whirl this fall. Starting September 17th, all children Kindergarten through 5th grade will be starting a new curriculum called Whirl. Every Whirl lesson follows a four-part sequence: Welcome, Hear, Respond, and Launch (WHRL!). Each week, kids and leaders start their time together by identifying where they are in the church year and watching an animated video to set up the lesson. Next, they dive into the Bible together, respond to the scripture lesson with creative activities, and circle up to review the lesson and pray before being sent out.

**Worship Enrichment** will begin September 17th. Worship Enrichment will be led by Jodi Martin at the 11:00 service after the Children’s Time. Children, Kindergarten- 2nd grade, are invited to join Jodi in the chapel for a worship activity. The children will return to their parents during the Hymn following the “Passing of the Peace.”

Children 4 years and younger who opt to attend 11:00 worship will depart for childcare to room 120 for the remainder of the service.

Once again we are teaming up with **Los Niños Primero** to host **La Fiesta in the Park** on September 24th from 3:00-7:00 p.m. I hope you all can volunteer.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090549aeac2ea20-lafiesta2>

## Monday Study Group

Study group will resume on Sept. 11 at 10:00am in the Session Room. Appropriate to the date and our current times, our first 6 lessons will be about Interfaith Dialog with MVPC member, Rita Sheffey, moderating our discussion. Rita has been taking theology courses at Candler Theological Seminary with one course in this area particularly. She has plans for visitors from the Jewish and Muslim communities to give us the opportunity to practice this important dialog.



## Youth Ministry

I want to thank everyone who prayed for and supported our Honduras trip. It was amazing! We had such a fulfilling week, working with the people of Barrio Las Brisas – a small neighborhood of almost all farmers outside of the larger city of Gualaco (which still wasn't very big!). We were the first group to ever work with them, and they welcomed us with a beautiful sign they painted (which will go in Gailey Hall), along with singing and lots of hugs. We spent our week with these fabulous people, working hard to put in 6 cement floors (I can mix cement in my sleep!), 3 latrines, 2 pistas (water gathering system), and 1 eco stove, while also doing a Drama Camp with an average of 45 children each day. Our group worked HARD! The villagers were so gracious and lovely to us. We spoke often of the incredible sense of community they have – everyone helped everyone else, no matter what the need. Sometimes we didn't even know whose house it was, because we had been working with some of the same people at different houses! It was such a lesson in graciousness and hospitality.

At the end of the week, we celebrated together with a fun dance party, cookies, drinks, and Blow Pops! It was just a terrific week, and you would have been beyond proud if you could have seen how hard everyone worked, and how hard they tried to get to know the people with whom we worked. We hope to go back and help some more. Here are some pictures for you to enjoy – we knew you were with us in prayer and spirit, and that was the best!

Peace and Grace,  
Elizabeth



**LISTEN**

*“As disciples of Jesus Christ, we listen to scripture, tradition, one another, and the world in order to understand God’s will for us as individuals and as a community”*



## Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women enjoyed a Kickoff Luncheon to celebrate the beginning of another year of Bible Study, fellowship, and missions.

The Day and Sunday Circles will be studying *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews* by Melissa Bane Sevier. Dr. Joe B. Martin will be teaching the lessons. The Day Circle meets on the 2nd Tuesday and the Sunday Circle meets on the 2nd Sunday of most months. The Book Circle meets on the 2nd Friday of the month. Meetings for the Circle of Grace will be announced later.

Also, great news! Two new circles are getting started! If you are a Twenty or Thirty Something and want fellowship with other young women, contact Mercedes Perez to get involved. Under consideration: short hikes and some craft projects. Do you want to learn to knit with other intergenerational women of the church? Sylvia McAdam will lead this group. They plan to knit items for the youth group's service projects to the homeless.

Contact Pat Bartee for further information, [pbartee@yahoo.com](mailto:pbartee@yahoo.com)



**LOVE**

*“As members of a family of faith, we strive to love one another unconditionally, sharing our joys and standing beside one another in our struggles”*



## Birth Announcements

Please join us in welcoming...



Cameron Elizabeth McClintock, born May 7th weighing 8 lbs. 3 oz. and 20.5 inches long, to Lauren & Bryan McClintock.



Brighton Leigh Barrios Mead, born August 2nd, to Ryan, Whitney & big sister McKenzie Mead.

*“As members of a family of faith, we strive to love one another unconditionally, sharing our joys and standing beside one another in our struggles”*

## Blessing of the Animals

Blessings of the Animals is Saturday, September 9th from 10:00–11:00 am at the Mount Vernon Woods Clubhouse and Pool which is located at the end of Vernon Woods Dr. (from Mt. Vernon Hwy, turn onto Vernon Woods Dr. and follow it to the end or from Abernathy, turn onto Cherry Tree Lane and turn right onto Vernon Woods Dr.) Contact Joe B. Martin at (423) 432-7587 if you need further directions or get lost.

Drop in when you can and leave when you need to or stick around and visit with our Mt. Vernon Woods neighbors.

## Congratulations!

- Charley Plumly for receiving his Eagle Scout Award! For his Eagle Project, Charley built a whiteboard for the outdoor classroom at Lost Corners Park. The ceremony will be held this fall.
- Rev. Ricardo Green was reinstated as an ordained Presbyterian ministry of the P.C. (USA). The event took place at McDonough Presbyterian Church on Saturday 08/19, at the Presbytery meeting of Greater Atlanta.

## September Yoga Schedule

Jodi will be having her usual yoga classes for this month. Cost is \$5.00 per class and Thursdays at 11:00 are free. Bring a friend and join us for a class!

Tuesdays: 5:30 am & 1:30 pm  
Thursdays: 5:30 am & 11:00 am

NO YOGA: 9/5 or 9/7



Email Jodi Martin, [jodi@mvpchurch.org](mailto:jodi@mvpchurch.org), for any questions.



**LOVE**

*“As members of a family of faith, we strive to love one another unconditionally, sharing our joys and standing beside one another in our struggles”*

## Concerns of the Congregation

In extended care: Margaret Blackley, Frances Couch, Lela Griffin, Doyne Michie, Lorraine Moore and Jack Ward. Please keep all of these individuals and families in your prayers.

Dear Church Family,  
I cannot begin to tell you how the emails, cards, words of encouragement, food, and concern throughout Bill's illness and death buoyed us up and helped us through a difficult time in our lives. Mount Vernon Presbyterian is a caring, loving congregation and my daughters and I feel grateful to have been and still be a part of this church family.

Blessings and peace,

Pat Barteo and family



## Congregational Retreat October 20-22 at the Calvin Center

It's a retreat, not a charge! Join us at the Calvin Center for a weekend of building meaningful relationships with many optional activities including archery, canoeing, fishing, yoga, hiking, board games, cards, movie night, and watching football. There is lots of room to run around and play, plenty of space and time just to relax and the food is great. \$75 per double occupancy room per night. \$10 per meal. \$25 extra for horseback riding. Click [here](#) or visit [mountvernon.campbrainregistration.com](http://mountvernon.campbrainregistration.com) to register.

## CAC Ceremony

MVPC was among the donors honored at CAC's Sledgehammer Ceremony, kicking off the renovation of their new facility on Roswell Rd.

Executive Director Tamara Carrera singled MVPC out as the first congregation to make a gift to their capital campaign and as CAC's most enduring and loyal of partners through our financial and volunteer support.



**SERVE**

## A Rabbi and a Minister Walk into a Bar

7:00 PM at 5 Seasons Brewing in The Prado on Monday, September 11. Plan to be there around 6:00pm if you wish to order dinner first.

*"Moved by the Spirit, we serve our gracious God by taking that with which we have been blessed and turning it into blessings for others"*

## Communion Offering

The Communion Offering for September will be for the Community Assistance Food Pantry. As you can imagine, they are short after a summer of feeding students who are not receiving a free lunch while not in school. They are especially in need of canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.), cereal, canned fruit, canned vegetables, canned fruits, soup, grits, macaroni and cheese, rice, fruit, applesauce cups, and juice. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## 2017 First Cup Hospitality Needs You!

We are in need of a few great volunteers to help with the First Cup Hospitality Table on Sundays. The First Cup cart is kept loaded and ready in the Sacristy located behind the pulpit. Hospitality tables will already be set up in the Narthex. All that is needed is a simple set-up and clean up before the service. If you would be willing to help, you can sign up [online here](#) or email Christy Hill at [christy.hill321@comcast.net](mailto:christy.hill321@comcast.net) Thank you!



## Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Language Program

**We need volunteers!** English classes are offered twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays for 90 minutes, but we need you to commit yourself one night only for 90 minutes. It can be either on Monday or Wednesday, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. You will be committed for only 10 weeks. From Wednesday, September 6th through Wednesday, November 15th. We will provide the English curriculum for you and the students.

If you would like to have this experience in your life BUT you may say, I don't speak Spanish, you are right, but you are not teaching Spanish, you are teaching your mother tongue. Let me share some of the testimonies of the teachers that taught last semester and are going to keep doing it:



**SERVE**

"Please put me on the list for next semester. Its been a beautiful experience seeing my students, Mario, Jesus, Ana and others doing their best to improve their English skills." -Carol Beckman.

*"Moved by the Spirit, we serve our gracious God by taking that with which we have been blessed and turning it into blessings for others"*

"I really love to see Luciana, Diega, Ana, Pedro and others working hard to improve their possibilities in this country." -Melanie Lerner

Come and see and enjoy one of the most vibrant events in your life, to teach others to speak your mother tongue. If you further question please do not hesitate to get in touch with me: [ricardo@mvpchurch.org](mailto:ricardo@mvpchurch.org)



## Family Promise Update!

Thanks to all who volunteered to help with Family Promise this summer. Unfortunately, we had no guests at the time. But Family Promise is now hosting families so we fully expect to have guests at our next session which begins on December 31. Please watch for announcements and sign ups and mark your calendar for December 31- Jan 7! Thank you.

Thanks, Wendy



## Stan Williams Zambia Scholarship

Finally, the day dawned when **Cecilia Mvula** graduated from her Clinical Medicine program. It has been three years since she first enrolled and her determination and hard work have paid off. On the 11th of August, Chreso University where Cecilia was a student, held their graduation ceremony at the New Government Complex along Independence Avenue in Lusaka.

Cecilia remarked on this special day for her and her family, "I can never thank CACZ, ACE and the members of MVPC enough for the financial assistance, moral support, inspiration, and encouragement that I was given throughout my educational journey. I also thank the HDCS teachers who worked so tirelessly to make me and my friends the hardworking and high achieving students that we are today. I will always be grateful and I hope that I can give back in whatever small way I can for all the blessings I was so generously given."



## Hannah Hagenau Scholarship Thank You!

"Thank you for the generous support everyone at the church has provided to the Garden Hill Scholarship Fund! This year we managed to raise over \$5,000 to put towards funding 20+ students high school education in Zambia, exceeding our \$3,000 goal! After getting to meet many of the students that this money will benefit, I can honestly say that they are very grateful and deserving of these funds. They are so hard-working and determined. Thank you again to everyone who supports this project! I know that this money will go a long way and mean a lot to the students in Zambia!"

From,  
Hannah Hagenau



### 2017 Session Members and Ministry Teams

#### Adult

Mary McClurg  
Pat Davis  
Donna Martin

#### Intergenerational

Daniel Schafer  
Ann Williams

#### Outreach

Wendy Hagenau  
Quinton Fisher  
Gill Hutt

#### Children

Heidi Nelson  
Hannah Hagenau

#### Finance/Administration

John Allen  
Lisa McGuire

#### Youth

Brad Hahn

#### Congregational Care

Cathy Austin  
Joy Carden  
Ann Addison

#### Witness

Leigh Thompson

#### Stewardship

Wit Truitt

#### Strategic Planning

Barbara Hughes  
Donna Neumann

#### Worship

Katherine Koops  
Christy Hill

#### Clerk of Session

Malinda Holmes

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Handbell Choir 7 pm No Youth Group	4 MVPS & Church Office Closed	5 No Yoga PW CT Meeting 10 am	6 Handbell Choir 6:30 pm Language School 7 pm Choir Rehersal 7:30 pm	7 No Yoga	8 PW Book Circle 10 am	9 Blessing of the Animals 10 am
10 Visitor's Brunch 10 am Youth Fun w/ Balloons 5-7 pm Handbell Choir 7 pm	11 Bible Study 10 am Finance Admin 6:30 Language Classes 7 pm Rabbi/Minister 7 pm	12 Yoga: 5:30am & 1:00pm PW Circle Mtg	13 Handbell Choir 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Language School 7 pm	14 Yoga 5:30 am & 11:00 am	15	16
17 Session Meeting 12:00 pm Youth Paintball 12 pm-3:30 pm Handbell Choir 7 pm	18 Bible Study 10 am Language School 7 pm	19 Yoga: 5:30am & 1:00pm WPT 7 pm	20 <u>Good News Deadline</u> Handbell Choir 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm Language School 7 pm	21 Yoga: 5:30am & 11:00am	22	23
24 La Fiesta in the Park 3 pm- 7 pm Youth at La Fiesta Handbell Choir 7 pm	25 Bible Study 10 am Language Classes 7 pm	26 Yoga 5:30 am & 1:00 pm	27 <u>Good News Published</u> Handbell Choir 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm Language School 7 pm	28 Yoga 5:30 am & 11:00 pm	29	30

### September Birthdays

Betsy Cozine	3-Sep	Emma Plumly	6-Sep	Sarah Anderson	14-Sep	Melanie O'Brien	23-Sep
Kirk Pumphrey	4-Sep	Caroline Little	9-Sep	David Anderson	15-Sep	George Henry	24-Sep
Chris Gray	4-Sep	Barbara Harms	10-Sep	Sam McClurg	15-Sep	Stuart Thomson	24-Sep
Hazel Cofield	4-Sep	Suzanne Snynn	10-Sep	Nancy Lesser	16-Sep	Ellen Lesser	27-Sep
Ginny Little	5-Sep	Sylvia McAdam	12-Sep	Brian Carberry	17-Sep	Mark Zang	28-Sep
Channing Snynn	5-Sep	Jim Loth	13-Sep	Charlene Loth	18-Sep	Robyn Baitcher	29-Sep
Kelley Brownlee	6-Sep	Andre' Hazelwood	13-Sep	Julia Simon	20-Sep	Anne Troy	29-Sep
Carolyn Spain	6-Sep	Meg Christian	14-Sep	McLaren Christensen	20-Sep	Jacqueline Sullivan	29-Sep
Emma Plumly	6-Sep			Stephanie Skidmore	20-Sep	Jack Bobeng	30-Sep

**September 3**

THEME: The Name of God

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 3:1-5

Worship at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

10:00 THISunday Activities

**Childcare:** (SB 120)

**Children:** (SB 104)

**All Youth:** (Gailey Hall)

- Adult:**
1. **Feasting on the Word** (Chapel)  
*Bible Study on the passage of the day.*
  2. **Talking Back to the Preacher** (Joe B.'s Office)  
*Exploring the theme of the day a little deeper, ask the preacher questions, or give feedback on any part of the worship service.*
  3. **Estudios Bíblicos en Español** (Session Room)

**September 10**

THEME: Love Now

SCRIPTURE: Romans 13:8-14

Worship at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

10:00 THISunday Activities

**Fellowship Brunch:** Fellowship Hall

*Welcome our visitors, celebrate Summer and September birthdays, and eat some food.*

*Children will be provided activities after they eat.*

**September 17**

THEME: Accountable to God Alone

SCRIPTURE: Romans 14:1-12

Worship at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

10:00 THISunday Activities

**Childcare:** (SB 120)

**Children:** (SB 104)

**All Youth and their Parents:** (Gailey Hall)

*Come find out what's new in the 2017-18 Youth Ministry program schedule and how to keep informed and get involved.*

- Adult:**
1. **Feasting on the Word** (Chapel)  
*Bible Study on the passage of the day.*
  2. **Rules Vs. Preferences** (Joe B.'s Office)  
*What do we do as a church because that's just the way we like it and what do we do because we are supposed to do it that way? And who says so?*
  3. **Estudios Bíblicos en Español** (Session Room)

**September 24**

THEME: Rejoicing Over Another's Blessings

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 20:1-16

Worship at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

10:00 THISunday Activities

**Childcare:** (SB 120)

**Children:** (SB 104)

**All Youth:** (Gailey Hall)

- Adult:**
1. **Feasting on the Word** (Chapel)
  2. **Talking Back to the Preacher** (Joe B.'s Office)  
*Exploring the theme of the day a little deeper, ask the preacher questions, or give feedback on any part of the worship service.*
  3. **Estudios Bíblicos en Español** (Session Room)
  4. **Knitting 101** (Kirk Center)  
*Join us to learn how to knit or polish up on your skills from long ago. We are knitting hats and scarves for the Outreach Christmas tree that our youth will distribute when they feed the homeless.*



*“As children of God, we seek to praise God in worship and in all that we say and do”*



471 Mt. Vernon Hwy, NE  
Sandy Springs, GA 30328

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Return Service Requested

**Got News?** We'd love to hear from you! Send us your news so we can celebrate, laugh, and/or cry with you. After all, we are FAMILY. Deadline for news is the 15th of each month for the *next month's* newsletter. Send your submissions to [mackenzie@mvpchurch.org](mailto:mackenzie@mvpchurch.org). *If you'd no longer wish to receive the Good News monthly, please email Jill at [jill@mvpchurch.org](mailto:jill@mvpchurch.org).*



### Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Staff

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